

THE
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHER.

OCTOBER, 1863.

Volume XVI. W. E. SHELDON, Editor for this Month. Number 10.

PERSONAL.

WITH deep regret the Department is this month compelled to announce the withdrawal of the Nestor of its trio from his position as Senior Resident Editor of the *Teacher*. While we congratulate him upon the bright prospects which lure him from the home of his adoption, we feel that his departure will be a severe loss to the cause of Education in Massachusetts.

CHARLES ANSORGE, Esq., whose name has so long been upon the cover of the *Teacher*, and which is so familiar to the friends of education, not only in this State, but in all the States where the interests of the Common Schools are cherished, stepping aside from his immediate occupation as a Professor of Music, has identified himself with the cause of popular instruction to an extent which entitles him to the respect and gratitude of the whole community. A political exile from his native land, he located himself in the vicinity of Boston, and by his high principle and generous enthusiasm in every good cause, he won the respect and esteem of his co-laborers. He devoted himself with industry and zeal to his profession, and while a well-merited prosperity crowned his labors, he rendered important service to the community in the department of musical science.

But our retiring brother was better known to the community at large as a devoted friend of Education. There are few, if any, who have devoted themselves more constantly and faithfully to the promotion of its highest interests. With less of the honors and rewards than have been bestowed upon our eminent educators, he has held a laboring oar, in season and out of season, and when others were discouraged and indifferent. For many years he has performed the drudgery of a Resident Editor of the *Teacher* with little fee or reward, and while he occupied no salaried position as an instructor.

This statement is due to Mr. Ansonge, that the teachers of Massachusetts may

understand and appreciate the debt of gratitude they owe to him. Those who have so often seen his pleasant face in the Educational Rooms will need no prompting to remind them of his labors; especially those with whom he has been more immediately connected in the American Institute of Instruction, and in the Massachusetts State Teachers' Association.

We sincerely regret the departure from our midst of Mr. Ansorge, but we congratulate the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois upon the accession of so valuable a working man to the ranks of its educators. Our best wishes for his future prosperity and happiness will go with him, and we feel that we may speak for the teachers of the State, when, for them, we give him a hearty God-speed in the new field of labor he has chosen.

THE GRAND EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION, AND TEACHERS' CONVENTION, HELD AT CHICAGO, ILL., DURING THE SUMMER VACATION, 1863.*

It has been thought best, to give the whole or the greater part of this number to a detailed description of the teachers' meetings, that were held in the first and the latter days of August, by two associations, which are well known to all friends of education. The American Institute of Instruction is the oldest and largest educational corporation on this continent, which for obvious reasons thus far has held its meetings within, or not far from the boundary line of New England. The rapid growth and the liberal development of the system of public schools in the West and the Middle States made the National Teachers' Convention a necessity. Boston has been regarded the Mecca of New England; its good example on educational grounds, however, is rather slowly appreciated and followed. As long as Massachusetts with her adjoining sister States adheres to the inappropriate and antiquated District System or the method of having the fitness of the teachers ascertained by men of other trades or professions, it follows as a natural consequence that other States must take the lead in such reforms.

The American Institute and the National Teachers' Association differ from County or State Teachers' Conventions or Teachers' Institutes. The latter embrace almost exclusively teachers in Normal, High, Grammar, and Primary Schools, while the former include tutors and professors in Colleges and Universities. The interests of the latter are in several respects more limited than the former.

The first meetings of the National Teachers' Convention were of course attended only by a small yet select number; but the meeting at Buffalo,

*We are indebted to our associate, CHARLES ANSORGE, ESQ., for that portion of this article which relates to the outward trip, and the meeting at Chicago. — EDITOR.

three years ago, assembled a multitude not only of "friends of education," but of real, live teachers. At the last meeting at Chicago there were assembled, according to the Report of the Committee, over *sixteen hundred teachers*, gathered from all the loyal States. We concur with the statement which has been made several times, that this was the *greatest meeting of teachers* ever held on this continent or in Europe—if we look at its *composition* or the *quality of its members*. But with regard to numbers it was not the largest meeting. On Tuesday after Easter in 1848, when the March revolution had upset the French throne, and the fate of the German dynasties was trembling in the scale, there assembled in Breslau, kingdom of Prussia, three thousand brave gentlemen, all teachers of public schools in Silesia, and two thousand two hundred and fifty signed the resolutions adopted by that meeting. Protestants, Catholics and Jews united their efforts to get a national system of education, free from an undue influence of the church. Alas, they are still hoping for it. A second meeting, larger in number, was that of the American Institute of Instruction, held in Boston, August 21st, 22d, 23d, 1860, under the Presidency of D. B. Hagar, Esq., of Jamaica Plain, when Tremont Temple was completely filled.

THE JOURNEY FROM BOSTON TO CHICAGO.

A large number of "excursionists" left the Lowell Depot on Monday morning, July 27th, and on Tuesday evening, July 28th, for the West. The feelings of those assembled, as expressed in their countenances, differed widely. There were some who had taken a good breakfast at home, had procured a newspaper on their way, put all their baggage in readiness, and were quietly waiting for the cars. Others were trying in vain to refresh the inner man with cake and cold pie or scalding-hot coffee. Still others were waiting for their baggage, while a few, who came at the "eleventh hour," arranged hastily their ticket-affairs with the obliging agent, Mr. Millis, who was promptly on the spot. The individuality of passengers manifests itself on entering the car. Those who are accustomed to travelling, soon settle down and make themselves comfortable, while with others the difficulty of finding a "really suitable" seat increases with the number of empty places. Some prefer the sunny side, others like to sit in the shade; some desire an outer, others an inner seat; and many more spread themselves over such a space, that there is no room for a partner. When the car has emerged from the twilight that prevails within the walls of the depot, each one engages in some occupation which characterizes more or less the person. The scenery through Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, has been so often and well described, that a repetition is needless. About 4 o'clock, P. M., an incident occurred which showed the power of habit. A news boy came and offered the "*Boston Journal*" for sale;

when a wag among the passengers cried aloud : "*Three o'clock edition!*" and half a dozen hands were raised at once to get the afternoon paper.

New England enterprise and neatness diminishes gradually, the nearer one approaches Ogdensburg; and having crossed the river, the traveller cannot help feeling that he is in another country. The officers employed on the road make a certain degree of politeness blend with a peculiar imperial or royal air; the custom house officer involuntarily makes the passenger feel that he is at the officer's mercy; the conductor's voice has a certain commanding influence which forbids disobedience, and even the brakeman rises from his seat and checks the quick rotation of the wheels with a dignity which shows that he is conscious of being an important subject in the Queen's domain. The road goes through a most forlorn-looking part of Canada. Twilight at eve and morn, the light of the full moon or sun reveals to the traveller hardly anything but woods cleared on both sides of the track by fire or the axe, the stumps either still in the ground, or stretching their extracted gigantic roots towards heaven. Now and then a log hut is seen, inhabited by men or cattle, more seldom a barn in the midst of a patch of cultivated ground, and sometimes some frolicking colts or grazing cattle seem to testify that a living can be made even in these parts of Canada. United States coin is taken in Canada only at a discount of seven or eight per cent., and the scanty meals which were furnished tardily for fifty cents of our Postal Currency or for Greenbacks, show that the Canadians esteem Uncle Sam's shinplasters much less than their own. This was felt especially in Toronto. The Canadian dollar is now esteemed worth one dollar and thirty-three cents U. S. currency, while the "States" dollar is worth only about seventy-eight Canadian cents. We were assured repeatedly that this discount was one of the principal causes of the decline in trade between the States and the Provinces, and that the Canadians felt the consequences of our war more severely than the people in the Northern States. What we gained by crossing Lake Ontario and seeing Niagara Falls at full moon, we lost by not being able to attend the exhibitions of the public schools in Toronto.

From this place to Port Sarnia the railroad passes through more fertile grounds; but at Port Sarnia, where there should be accommodations for at least a hundred travellers, hardly a dozen can find rooms to stay over night. About one hundred and seventy teachers from the East collected here, and late in the afternoon were taking quarters in the screw steamer B. F. Wade. Many a teacher for the first time in his or her life gained now some adequate notion of those vast inland seas. Descriptions, figures, statistics, all fail to impress one with their wonderful proportions. We remember that our school books represent Lake Huron as covering a surface of two hundred and fifty by one hundred and ninety miles, and Lake

Michigan as being three hundred and twenty miles long and seventy miles wide, and that each lake has about three times the area of Massachusetts. But it is only when fairly embarked on their beautiful waters, sailing for hours at the rate of twelve knots out of sight of land, as upon the ocean itself, that the minds grasp any adequate conception. Our party was particularly favored with a full moon and quiet waters on the outward trip, so that whatever can be enjoyed on a water excursion fell to our lot; even the inconveniences to which many gentlemen were subjected on account of the crowded condition of the boat, became sources of amusement. During our voyage of two days and three nights, the boat made several stops for fuel, affording an opportunity for visiting Mackinaw and the island of Manitou. A subsequent party got quite enchanted with a young lady who kept school in a log cabin, and their doings will be found described on page 370.

A SCENE ON BOARD THE STEAMER B. F. WADE, ON AUGUST 1st, 1863.

A pleasant complimentary surprise was enacted at the close of the journey on the lakes. The excursionists from the East, having invited the captain and other officers of the boat to be present at a social entertainment, proceeded to organize a meeting by the choice of Mr. George E. Allen, of West Newton, for President, and Mr. Josiah A. Stearns, of Boston, for Secretary.

Mr. A. P. Stone of Plymouth, then offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we, the passengers on board the steamer B. F. Wade, in her passage from Port Sarnia to Chicago, desire to express our most hearty thanks to captain Goldsmith for his gentlemanly and courteous deportment, and for his successful efforts to make our passage pleasant and agreeable.

Resolved, That we also tender our thanks to the mate, to Mr. Hagerman the clerk, and Mr. Bonacina the steward of the Wade, by whose constant care and attention our comfort and enjoyment have been so highly promoted.

Resolved, That the steamer B. F. Wade, under its present popular and successful management, is entitled to our confidence and patronage, and we most cheerfully commend it as such to the travelling public.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary, be presented to Captain Goldsmith, and that a copy also be offered to the Chicago journals for publication.

These, with enthusiastic and hearty good will, were passed unanimously. Mr. Wm. E. Sheldon of West Newton, who had made all the necessary arrangements for the trip, was now called upon; and in a few happy remarks, complimentary to the captain, steward, and other officers of the boat, he expressed the satisfaction all had felt in the kind treatment

they had experienced, and particularly alluded to the entire absence of profanity on board, and the decorum with which all the affairs of the boat had been conducted. He would confirm the sincerity, he said, of those for whom he spoke, by presenting the captain a purse of money, collected by the ladies. Had the boat arrived at Milwaukie before the stores had closed, it had been designed to procure at that place some valuable testimonials, appropriate for the captain, and also for his wife; but they must request him to procure such articles for himself and her on their behalf.

Captain G. responded with hearty thanks in the following words :

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN : — I am unable to express the satisfaction and gratitude I feel for the sentiments contained in your resolutions. Nothing could give me greater pleasure than to know the enjoyment of your trip on our noble western lakes has not fallen short of your anticipations. However, I must say that your pleasure is not due so much to the efforts of myself and crew, as to the fact that you are easily satisfied; and with genuine Yankee tact are willing to adapt yourselves to circumstances. Let me assure you it is not an arduous duty, and requires no denial of self for any of us to promote the happiness of such an assemblage as this. Representing as you do the old Bay State — famous for its great men, its free principles, its intelligence, and certainly its pretty "schoolmarms" — and coming as you do to the Great West to promote the interests of education, anything done for you deserves no thanks, but should and *does* assume the selfish form of a positive pleasure to us all.

"In accepting this beautiful present, with which you have unexpectedly honored me, I can only *thank you heartily*, and assure you that it will always be a treasure of priceless value for the many pleasing associations connected with it. In future years, when old Neptune and I have parted company, this mark of affection from New England schoolmistresses, will certainly be productive of far more pleasing sensations than the *marks* of affection I remember to have received from schoolmistresses in my younger days.

"In conclusion, allow me to thank you again for all the good-will you have expressed for my officers and myself, and to express the wish that you may do all the good and have all the fun you anticipate, and return to New England with renewed strength for your duties."

Mr. Sheldon having received the Captain's response, was proceeding gracefully to retire, when Mr. Stone, of Plymouth, arrested him by saying he had a duty to perform, and setting forth in forcible terms the voluntary and untiring though unpaid services of Mr. Sheldon in managing the trip, much to the surprise and astonishment of that gentleman, presented him, also, with a purse of money contributed by the ladies in gratitude for his especial attention to their comfort and safety.

Mr. S. responded with some emotion, expressing his thanks and playfully complimenting the donors.

Mr. S. concluded that he had only performed a duty, and adding a few

patriotic words, called on Prof. Anson, the musician of the party, who replied happily, and requested all to assist in performing an impromptu song, written for the occasion, by Rev. P. T. Allen, of New Bedford.

The song elicited further remarks from Mr. Sheldon, and, by a call from the President, spirited addresses were made by Rev. P. T. Allen of New Bedford, Messrs. J. A. Stearns, Dr. J. H. York, James F. Blackinton, and J. Goodwin Clark of Boston, Capt. Hoswell of R. I., H. C. Hardon and Chas. Hutchins of Boston, Mr. Hurlburt of Vermont, Nath. T. Allen of West Newton, and Professor Anson of Dorchester, who proposed to conclude the exercises with "Auld Lang Syne." This done, the boat's steam whistle uttered an indescribable, and supposed grateful response, and the gathering dispersed.

THE CITY OF CHICAGO.

Having taken pains to see on Sunday several churches in the city, where we were particularly pleased with seats liberally provided for strangers, with the congregational singing, and the zeal which was shown by the younger portion of the congregation, we ascended early on Monday morning the cupola of the Court House, and visited in the course of the week the most noteworthy places in the city. We would gladly give our impressions about this place, were we not afraid, that they might be regarded as partial; for, before these lines will be read by our friends, the writer will already have bidden farewell to his friends, the beautiful scenery and many pleasant associations in New England, and especially Boston and its vicinity, and gone West to make Chicago his future home.

We clip, therefore, the following lines from the *New Bedford Mercury*, (Aug. 28,) which we presume were written by Rev. P. T. Allen of New Bedford, who is truly, as the signature says, a "Patriot."

"Our stay at Chicago was noted for the extreme heat of the weather; and as we left the refreshing breezes of the lake on that hot Sunday, Aug. 2d, and found ourselves suddenly transferred to the burning streets of the city, it was almost more than we could bear, and not a few were obliged to succumb. It was a strange sight to see fruit stands displaying their stores and other places of business open as on ordinary days, and especially in the evening, the German dance halls brilliantly lighted, and music and dancing, with loud laughter and cheers, continued late into the night. In these Western cities the German element is so large as to greatly modify, and in some cases almost wholly control the administration of affairs. In Chicago, we were told, this element is predominantly loyal; in Milwaukee and Quincy, very largely disloyal. For a quarter of a century Chicago has been the representative city of the West, and we have been told, almost *ad nauseam*, of its marvellous growth, its wonderful enterprise, and its vast business capacities. Its citizens are not yet weary of descanting on these grateful themes, until you begin to doubt whether there be any other Ameri-

can city. New York and Boston are already but its suburbs, and in fifty years it will be the largest city in the world! And indeed you can sympathize with this spirit of loyal pride, when you recollect that in 1833 Chicago was an insignificant trading post of 100 inhabitants, and to-day numbers 160,000 — its wide and beautiful streets over-crowded with business, and the active enterprise of its merchants already making it the leading city of the West, as the general entrepot of trade. It is *the* corn and pork market, of the country — Milwaukee slightly leads it in wheat. Besides its large lake trade, its 12 railroads, (the shortest 90 miles), are traversed daily by from 70 to 80 *passenger* trains, in addition to freight trains beyond my computation. Over the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road alone were conveyed, last year, 467,000 hogs and about 70,000 cattle, and the receipts of corn at the Chicago Board of Trade was 28,000,000 bushels. Their elevating warehouses, curiosities which no stranger should fail to visit, have a capacity for storing grain of 8,615,000 bushels, and 960,000 bushels can be daily received and shipped. The river passes, in two branches, through the very heart of the city, giving river frontage unsurpassed for amount and convenience. The dead level of the city is a serious evil, both on account of the general drainage and the sluggish flow — sometimes back flow — of the river; but this is the only drawback the inhabitants allow, although my experience would lead me to add mosquitoes and mud. The city is abundantly supplied with excellent water from the lake, by two engines of 275 and 550 horse power respectively; and a plan is projected of taking the water from far out in the lake, through a two mile tunnel. These facts are enough to show that Chicago, if not deserving all the encomiums of its extravagant citizens, is yet a respectable and thriving place, considering its years."

THE MEETING OF THE CONVENTION IN BRYAN HALL.

Over sixteen hundred teachers assembled from Wednesday to Friday in Bryan Hall. The weather was hot, the hall not sufficiently ventilated, and the spirit of many members dampened by a flood of addresses or lectures and the absence of debates. Fortunately, the greatest blessing is not always derived from the public meetings of associations; the social intercourse between the stated meetings is often of much more benefit, and gives with its amusing incidents more healthy recreation and pleasing material to the memory than lectures can do. As it has been resolved to publish the report of the proceedings, it is not necessary to be lengthy. With the help of our memory, our notes, and the valuable articles of the Chicago daily papers we will try to give a brief description.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock, by the President, John D. Philbrick, Esq., of Boston, and after a prayer by Rev. Mr. Savage of Chicago, Wm. H. Wells, Esq., of that city bid the guests welcome. He said:

"I rise in behalf of the Board of Education and the teachers and citizens of Chicago, to welcome the members of the National Teacher's Association to our city.

"For myself, I may say, and for many of my associates, there is an intensity of interest in this greeting which rises far above the formality of an ordinary welcome. We ourselves have come to Chicago from all the different States now represented in this Association.

"It is our own kindred and friends, our former associates, with whom we took sweet counsel in other days, that we now welcome to our adopted home.

"And first, with hearts full of affection and gratitude, we welcome New England, mother of schools. Yours are the honored names of Russell, and Carter, and Gallaudet, and Woodbridge, and Mann, and Barnard, and Emerson, and Z. P. Grant and Mary Lyon, and a hundred other lights of the first magnitude in the educational firmament, that will never cease to shine. Yours was the first Normal School in America, and at the present time yours is the most comprehensive and valuable educational periodical in existence. Again we say, all hail New England. Long will the newer States pay you their homage by frequent visits to your schools, and long will they continue to profit by your teachings and your example.

"Welcome, Empire State! proud in your position; commercial metropolis of a continent, and peer of New England, in your system of public instruction. Yours are the worthy names of Albert and John W. Picket, and Emma Willard and S. S. Randall; and to you, jointly with New England, belongs the honor of that bright name, the name of David P. Page, whose sun went down at noon.

"Yours was the first State Teachers' Association and the first State Teachers' paper; and yours is the Training School at Oswego, to which all eyes are turned.

"To you, also, we bow as our instructors and guides.

"Welcome, New Jersey. Though small in area you have already written a large page in the educational history of the country.

"Welcome, Maryland, with a Baltimore High School that vies with the Free Academy of New York in its appointments and its fruits, and a McJilton whose name is a synonym of educational progress.

"Welcome, Washington, the home of Richards, one of the founders and present pillars of this Association.

"Welcome, Keystone State, with your excellent school system, and your excellent school laws, on which the name of Thomas H. Burrows is everywhere inscribed. Yours is the first complete and legalized system of Town and City Institutes of Teachers for mutual instruction and improvement, and all the other States will watch with interest the result of this grand experiment.

"Welcome, Ohio. Though young in years, it is a full generation since you published a series of octavo volumes embodying the transactions of the Western College of Teachers, a monument of educational progress that gives Ohio a prominent place in the history of American education.

"All honor, also, to the teachers of the Buckeye State, for your early example of self-sacrifice in sustaining a State Agent at your own expense; and honor to the name of Lorin Andrews, who has been suddenly cut down in the midst of his usefulness, a martyr to the glorious cause of the American Union.

"It is with peculiar pleasure that we extend the hand of welcome to Kentucky, and Tennessee, and Missouri. Nobly and valiantly have you struggled to sustain both the Union and free schools, and the success with which you have triumphed over every obstacle, challenges our admiration.

"And what shall I say to the States nearer home—to our own little family of the Northwest? I have seen the assembled teachers of Michigan, of Indiana, of Wisconsin, of Iowa, and of Illinois, and numerous representatives from Minnesota, and Kansas, and Nebraska; and, brethren and sisters, there are a few things which I would like to say to you, but we are young yet, you know, and the old folks are around now, and so I must desist. But some time, when we feel a little less restraint, we will have a free talk on these points over our own tea-pot. I may at least extend to you, as I do, from a full heart, an earnest welcome.

"Welcome all, thrice welcome to our city, and to our educational feast.

"And now, Mr. President, I will only detain you to whisper a secret to the gentlemen of the Association. History, you know, often repeats itself. Among the early lessons of my school life there was one little story in the History of Rome which I always read with peculiar interest. It was the story of the public games prepared for the special entertainment of the Sabines, who came all unsuspecting, and brought their daughters with them, and who found the last act of the play entirely different from that which had been announced in the programme.

"On looking over the census of 1860 I find that the number of ladies in the Eastern States is very considerably in excess of the number of gentlemen; and the number of gentlemen in the Western States considerably in excess of the number of ladies. In imitation of our ambitious predecessors, we also have invited our Eastern friends to a grand educational feast, and we rejoice to find that so large a number of the daughters of New England have responded to the call, and I may as well say that before the close of the fifth act, we intend in some way to restore the equilibrium."

The President responded in a happy manner, after which the constitution of the Association was read. Mr. Eberhart of Chicago was appointed Assistant Secretary, Mr. I. Stone of Wisconsin Treasurer, Messrs. W. E. Sheldon of Massachusetts, Pickard of Wisconsin, and R. Edwards of Illinois, were to constitute the Committee on Resolutions and Business.

The meeting was now, as several times during the subsequent days, enlivened by the excellent singing of Messrs. Root Brothers, and Clark and Sabin.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS,

Presented, after some preliminary remarks, facts and suggestions respecting the nature and objects of the Association and the sphere of its operations and influence.

Having given a historical sketch of the origin and progress of this national and professional organization, the President continued:

"Its design and scope are not less comprehensive. They are 'to elevate the character and to advance the interests of the profession of teaching, and to promote the cause of popular education in the United States.'

Thus, while designed to admit to membership and participation in its proceedings, the representatives of all grades and descriptions of educational institutions, whether public or private, from the humblest infant school to the highest university, the sphere of its operations is coextensive with our country's territory and its educational interests, aspiring to embrace the whole subject of instruction and training for the rising generation in all quarters of the Union. With a title so comprehensive, and with objects so vast and important, we have ventured to present ourselves before the community and the world. It becomes us, therefore, to consider well the responsibility of the position we have assumed. We ought to endeavor to raise our minds to the height of the great argument. We ought to take large views. We ought to be catholic in spirit, knowing no sects in religion, no parties in politics. We should come to this work and to these deliberations bringing with us no local prejudices, no state jealousies, no sectional bigotry. We should come with ideas and sentiments circumscribed within no geographical limits, hemmed in by no mountain ranges or river courses, by no lines of latitude or longitude, but with a broad comprehension of intellect and feeling, with minds and hearts large enough to embrace all the interests we profess to serve — remembering ever that we have "*one hope, one lot, one life, one glory.*"

Several quotations, proving the high and influential position of the teacher, were given, after which was drawn an ideal sketch of what a school might be or should be. The speaker continued :

"Now just in proportion as we elevate the character and promote the interests of the profession of teaching, we shall approach the realization of this ideal of the teacher's mission. The two are one.

"And if we look back over the educational history of America for the space of a quarter of a century, we shall find much to encourage and stimulate our efforts in this high endeavor. Within that period a great and salutary change has taken place respecting the vocation of teaching. Its advancement in respectability, influence, and efficiency, has been marked and rapid. The number of able and learned persons of both sexes who are devoted to it, has been increased manyfold. The rate of compensation has been increased probably fifty per cent. Its labors has been rendered more agreeable and attractive by the classification and grading of schools, and by the vast improvements which have been made in school architecture.

"At the dedication of one of the large grammar schools in Boston, a year or two ago, a member of the corporation of Harvard University, a wise man who weighs his words, said in presence of the late President of that University and an ex-President, that the head of such a school was the President of a College to all intents and purposes. The establishment of Normal Schools, now found in most of the educating States, may be regarded as a substantial recognition of teaching as a distinct and liberal profession.. Well did Mr. Mann say at the dedication of the first Normal School House ever erected in America, 'I consider this event as marking an era in the progress of education on this continent and throughout the world.'

"Already the highest literature of the day is beginning to class teaching with the learned professions, an admission of no little significance. In

consequence of the great increase of desirable situations in teaching and superintending schools, some of the best graduates of our colleges are beginning to choose this profession in preference to those of law, medicine, and divinity, as affording an inviting career for a young man of generous ambition, who wishes to make the most of himself as a man, and at the same time to employ his talents for the improvement of the lot of his fellow creatures. In view of such facts as these, we cannot but feel encouraged to pursue the objects of this Association with zeal and animation.

"One of the principal means of elevating the character of teachers is to increase the demand for accomplished teachers. And this demand will be increased as the progress of education is advanced and its value appreciated. After all that can be done for the improvement of education, it is substantially what the teachers make it. The stream cannot rise higher than its fountain. If asked to describe the best system of public instruction, I should say it is that which secures and retains the services of the best teachers. To accomplish this, three things are requisite :

"1. The situation of the teacher must be made desirable, by adequate compensation, by good treatment, by suitable accommodations, and by limiting the labors to the requirements of health and self-improvement.

"2. The mode of selecting and appointing teachers should be such as to encourage the competition of the best qualified candidates, and to give merit the preference over every other consideration.

"3. The proper means should be employed to secure continued self-improvement on the part of teachers ; and with this view they should, as far as practicable, be commended, promoted, and rewarded in proportion to their advancement, and degraded or removed for delinquency and neglect of duty, as in this country the control of educational affairs rests ultimately with the people, the accomplishment of these objects requires that the popular mind should be enlightened on the subject. Here then is the great paramount work which, as members of this association, we should keep in view—to diffuse useful information on the subject of education. The nature and objects of education, its value and importance to the individual, to the community and the State ; the kind and degree to be desired ; the means and methods of securing it,—these are the great leading topics in regard to which the people need to be informed. Every teacher owes it to his profession, as well as to the cause of education, to improve every available opportunity to promote this object, by his pen and voice, and by aiding in the circulation of educational documents."

The meeting adjourned after the transaction of some business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Two lectures were delivered. The first by Mr. T. D. Adams of Newton, Mass., on the *Bearings of Popular Education on Civilization* ; and the second by Professor E. A. Grant of Louisville, Ky., who addressed the audience about *Teachers by Profession, Teachers by Trade, and Teachers who work only for Pay.*

When the committees, appointed three years ago, were called upon, but few responded, and even those were not ready to report.

On inquiry of Mr. Bulkley of Brooklyn, New York, why no statistics were presented relative to public schools and the status of educational progress, the President gave as a reason that this meeting of the Convention had not been announced in season to allow members time for thorough preparation and the presentation of elaborate statistics.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION.

But little time was taken up for the transaction of business, after which the Hon. J. M. Gregory, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Mich., delivered a lecture upon *The Higher Aspects of Education*. Adjourned.

THURSDAY FORENOON.

After prayer, the assembled audience heard two lectures; the first by Mr. S. M. Mason of Boston, on *School Gymnastics and Physical Training*; and the second by Mr. Z. Richards of Washington, D. C., on *The Teacher as an Artist*.

On motion of Mr. Hook of Indiana, it was

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to consist of five, to consider and report what the times and the condition of the country demanded of educators in the way of teaching; the principles of our government; also, the rights and duties of the citizen under the same.

On motion of Mr. Henkle, it was

Resolved, That all lady teachers present be elected as honorary members of this Association, and that they be requested to hand in their names for this purpose. Carried.

THE THANKSGIVING SERVICES,

Engaged in by the whole Convention in the same Hall at 12 o'clock, were deeply interesting, earnest and effective. They consisted of reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Dr. J. N. McJilton of Baltimore; the singing of a hymn by the congregation; a prayer by the Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., President of Harvard University; addresses by Rev. Dr. Eddy and Rev Mr. Brooks of Chicago, and Hon. J. M. Gregory of Michigan; concluding with the singing of "Old Hundred" and the benediction.

AMERICAN NORMAL ASSOCIATION.

This Association held its Sixth Annual Meeting in Bryan Hall on

THURSDAY AFTERNOON,

Aug. 6, 1863, commencing at 2 o'clock, P. M., the National Teachers' Association having suspended its afternoon session, according to a previous agreement.

The regular secretary being absent, W. D. Henkle of Ohio, was, on motion of Prof. Camp of Conn., appointed secretary *pro tem*.

The President of the Association, Mr. Richard Edwards, Principal of the Ill. State Normal University, made some introductory remarks, in which he showed that the magnitude of the work devolving upon those teachers connected with the Normal Schools of America is such that the organization of a Normal Association by the teachers of the Normal Schools was eminently proper.

On motion of Prof. Camp, a committee of three was appointed to nominate officers. The Chair appointed Prof. Camp, Holbrook of Ohio, and Hewett of Ill.

On motion of Mr. Hewett, Prof. Camp was appointed a delegate to represent the Association in the American Institute of Instruction at its coming meeting in Concord N. H.

On motion of Mr. Henkle, Mr. Bulkley of Brooklyn, N. Y., was appointed an additional delegate.

Hon. Henry Barnard not being present to deliver his address, Mr. C. F. Childs, of the Ill. State Normal University, read a paper on the *Mission of Model Schools*.

The large audience then, under the leadership of Prof. Root, sang *The Battle Cry of Freedom*. Both the music and words of this song were composed by Prof. Root.

The Committee on nominations made the following report;

President — Richard Edwards, of Ill.

Vice-Presidents — D. H. Cochran, N. Y.; C. H. Allen, Wis.; F. A. Allen, Pa.; J. W. Dickinson, Mass.; Geo. N. Bigelow, Mass.; Joshua Kendall, R. I.; W. F. Phelps, N. J.; J. W. Bulkley, N. Y.; A. S. Robertson, Upper Canada; D. F. Wells, Iowa; A. S. Boyden, Mass.

Secretary — W. D. Henkle, Ohio.

Treasurer — E. A. Sheldon, N. Y.

Counsellors — A. S. Welch, Mich.; A. Holbrook, Ohio; Alpheus Crosby, Massachusetts; Henry B. Buckham, Connecticut.

The report was received, and Prof. Camp authorized to cast the ballot.

Reports were then called for from the different States in answer to the question, "What is the precise Amount and Character of the Professional Instruction and Drill (including practice in Model School,) afforded in the Normal Schools of your State."

These reports were, on motion of Mr. Hewett of Illinois, intended to comprehend a discussion of Mr. Child's Report.

Prof. Camp reported for Connecticut, Hewett for Illinois, Hon. Mr. Gregory for Michigan, and Henkle for Ohio. Mr. Childs replied in a few words to some strictures on Model Schools made by Mr. Henkle.

Prof. Wells then reported for Iowa, Mr. Philbrick for Massachusetts. Mr. Allen of West Newton called upon the President to report for Massachusetts as he had formerly been Principal of one of the Normal Schools of that State. Hon. Mr. Weston reported for Maine, Dr. Ford for Minnesota, and Mr. Bulkley for New York.

The afternoon being far spent, no more states were called, and the audience, led by Prof. Root, sang, from "*The Silver Lute*," "God is Love." The Association then adjourned.

RICHARD EDWARDS, *President*.

W. D. HENKLE, *Secretary*.

THURSDAY EVENING.

An elaborate lecture was given by Rev. Thomas Hill, D. D., President of Harvard University, on *The True Methods of Development in Education*.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The meeting was opened at half past 8 o'clock with prayer. After the reading and approval of the minutes of yesterday's proceedings, the chairman announced Prof. S. S. Greene of R. I., and J. W. Bulkley of N. Y., as a Committee on Resolutions, to act with the regular Business Committee.

On motion of J. Tuckerman of Ohio, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report at the next annual meeting of this Association, upon the comparative merits of what is termed theoretical or general and practical or specific instruction.

Mr. E. A. Sheldon of Oswego, N. Y., read an interesting paper on *Object Teaching*, at the close of which he submitted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That no system can be in the highest degree successful that is not based on a knowledge of the mental, moral and physical constitution of childhood, the natural order in the evolution of the various faculties, as also of appliances for their development.

Resolved, That no teacher should be considered as properly prepared for his work, who has not made himself familiar with these principles, and the practical application of them in the school room.

Resolved, That to this end we recommend the establishment of training schools, the sole design of which shall be the professional education of teachers; schools whose special aim shall be to impart a practical knowledge of educational principles and art of applying them.

Resolved, That the perceptive faculties being first in the order of mental evolution, first demand the attention of the educator, and should receive special and distinctive culture, and to this end all the early processes in education should be specifically adapted.

Resolved, That all early instructions should be confined to such elementary steps of the subjects considered as will best secure the culture of the perceptive faculties, and recommend as happily adapted to this end, natural history, including lessons in local geography, on plants, animals, and mineral substances, and their sensible properties and qualities; mathematics, including number, form, and drawing, and language, including oral and written expression, reading and spelling, and that they be not extended beyond the child's perceptions.

Resolved, That we fully concur with Pestalozzi's proposition, that "observation is the original basis of all knowledge, and that the first business in education must be to lead a child to observe with accuracy, and the second to express with correctness the result of his observations," and that we regard the cultivation of language second only in order of time, and not second in importance as a branch of school culture.

Resolved, That we regard as unfortunate the appellation of "Object Teaching" or the attachment of any other specific name to improved methods of early school culture; and that we on all occasions, both by word and example, discourage the use of such titles, and that we speak of all occasional processes as *natural methods of teaching*.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. W. E. Crosby of Cincinnati, read a paper on *Primary Education*.

Mr. W. E. Sheldon, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, made a report, which was ordered to be acted upon at the opening of the afternoon session.

After a recess came the lecture of Hon. Henry Barnard, LL. D., of Hartford, Conn., on *Competitive Examination for Admission to the Military Academy at West Point*.

The lecturer was one of the National Committee of examination for this year, and witnessed the most astounding results as to the fitness of the young men sent thither by members of Congress. At an examination of fifty-four young men, not eight could have entered a High School of tolerable standing in the country. One half of them knew less of the history of the country than any similar number of boys from any New England village school.

No wonder we have defeat from want of competence of West Point officers. West Point could only send twenty-seven to meet the present emergency. These twenty-seven were all that remained able to stand the course of study.

In two hundred cases which underwent investigation, members of Congress have nominated invalid relatives from their own neighborhood, irrespective of qualification.

The Polytechnic School of Paris is differently organized; all candidates are examined at government expense, and admitted and graded according to their ability.

The teaching at West Point is worthy of all commendation, but it is wasted on incompetent boys, who drop out before the course ends. The age of sixteen, the present requirement, is too young.

All special education should rest in general culture; this cannot be attained at this age, and our best cadets are deficient in this. Public opinion should be created to cause a change in the present mode of appointment. Public examinations without favor should be the only test of fitness for appointment.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Rev. Mr. McJilton of Baltimore moved that Mr. Barnard be requested to embody the leading ideas of his address in the form of resolutions, or otherwise, that his propositions might be acted upon. Adopted.

Mr. Charles Ansorge of Dorchester, Mass., made an appeal in behalf of the general introduction of vocal music into common schools, and at the close of his remarks introduced the following resolutions:

Whereas, The power of music over the human soul has been proved beyond question, both by reason and experience; and whereas singing is the simplest as well as the most popular and effective kind of music; therefore,

Resolved, That singing should be taught to some extent in every public school, and that public teachers, by whom in most cases this branch of instruction will be cultivated, should cultivate their musical faculties as much as circumstances will permit.

Resolved, That the publication of a suitable collection for teachers, containing songs of a professional, social, patriotic, and religious character, would supply an acknowledged want and be likely to meet with favor.

These resolutions were seconded by Mr. Richard Edwards, President of the Normal University at Bloomington, Ill., and Mr. Geo. F. Root of Chicago, and passed unanimously.

A communication was read from members of the Board of Trade, inviting the teachers to meet them on 'Change; of which visit a paper of doubtful loyalty and certainly of little gallantry says: "In accordance with an invitation sent by the Board of Trade, several of the female teachers in attendance on the convention visited the Exchange rooms yesterday. The sight of ladies on that floor was an unusual one. It is not known how they stood on the list of commercial quotations, but some were fair to middling, others superfine, while the general tendency was the reverse of depressive." After which some general announcements were made, and the meeting adjourned till two o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Mr. W. E. Sheldon, of the Business Committee, reported that the resolutions offered relating to the programme of exercises be referred to the incoming Board of Management.

The special assignment for the hour was the election of officers, and Messrs. Allen and Nesselrode were appointed a committee to assort and count the votes, and the following list of officers nominated in the morning was declared elected.

President — W. H. Wells, Chicago, Ill.

Vice-Presidents — Richard Edwards, Bloomington, Ill.; Wm. Roberts, Philadelphia, Pa.; G. F. Phelps, New Haven, Conn.; J. L. Pickard, Madison, Wis.; D. Franklin Wells, Iowa City, Iowa; A. Rickoff, Cin-

cinnati, Ohio; Jas. G. Elliot, Faison's, N. C.; O. C. Wright, Washington, D. C.; C. S. Pennell, St. Louis, Mo.; G. W. Hoss, Indianapolis, Ind.; J. W. Bulkley, Brooklyn, N. Y.; John D. Philbrick, Boston, Mass.

Secretary — David N. Camp, New Britain, Conn.

Treasurer — Z. Richards, Washington, D. C.

Counsellors — E. P. Weston, Gorham, Me.; Abner J. Phipps, New Bedford, Mass.; S. S. Greene, Providence, R. I.; E. F. Strong, Bridgeport, Conn.; Jas. Cruikshank, Albany, N. Y.; J. S. Adams, Burlington, Vt.; A. J. Burbank, Keene, N. H.; J. N. McJilton, Baltimore, Md.; W. D. Henkle, Lebanon, Ohio; W. B. Smith, Valparaiso, Ind.; S. H. White, Chicago, Ill.; J. M. Gregory, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Isaac Stone, Jr., Kenosha, Wis.; A. S. Kissell, Davenport, Iowa; W. Ford, Winona, Minn.; J. T. Goodnow, Topeka, Kansas; C. F. Childs, St. Louis, Mo.; E. A. Grant, Louisville, Ky.

The following resolutions were then put and passed:

WHEREAS, In a democratic government, wherein the people are of necessity the sovereigns, it is indispensable to the prosperity and perpetuity of such government, that those sovereigns, the people, understand the principles of such government; and *whereas*, the exigencies of the times demand the highest intelligence and purest patriotism, therefore,

Resolved, That it is imperative that the history, polity, and constitution of our government be taught in our schools, wherever the maturity of the pupils is equal to the subjects.

Resolved, That the Association earnestly commends these subjects to the attention of teachers, trustees, and committee men throughout the nation.

Resolved, That this teaching should never be prostituted to the inculcation of purely partisan interests and principles.

Messrs. G. W. Hoss of Indiana, Richards of Washington, Grant of Kentucky, and Wells of Chicago, spoke upon the resolutions, when the Chair put them to the meeting.

Mr. Wentworth delivered an humorous speech, which was well received.

After the familiar hymn: "My Country, 'tis of Thee," had been sung by the whole assembly, Rev. P. T. Allen of New Bedford, Mass., moved:

Resolved, That while we deprecate the discussion of merely partisan or sectional topics by Teachers' Associations, we yet deem no person worthy to hold the honorable position of teacher or office in any educational institution, who is not fearlessly outspoken, and true at all times, both by voice and vote, to the great question of loyalty, patriotism, and the unconditional support of the National Government, in this crisis of our country's fate.

The resolution was carried by universal acclamation, amidst the greatest enthusiasm.

Mr. Pickard, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Wisconsin, delivered an address of great ability, upon the *Intellectual Aspects of Labor*.

Mr. Cruikshanks moved that a report of the proceedings of the Associ-

ation, with the lectures delivered, and the names of new members received. be printed in pamphlet form, and that moneys be solicited for this purpose. Carried.

A letter was received from the Young Men's Christian Association, asking the National Teachers' Association to send, addressed to them in Chicago, any rejected school books of a primary nature, for the use of contrabands throughout the West and Southwest.

Moved by Mr. Weston of Maine, that the undoubted loyalty of this Association needs no re-assertion; that we are with and for the Union, now and forever, one and inseparable. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned.

CLOSING SESSION ON FRIDAY EVENING.

The Committee on the President's Address, reported as follows :

Resolved, That this Association heartily endorse the suggestions of the President :

1. That the situation of the teacher must be made desirable by adequate compensation, by good treatment, by suitable accommodations, and by uniting his labors to the requirements of health and self-improvement.

2. That the mode of selecting and appointing teachers should be such as to encourage the competition of the best qualified candidates, and to give merit preference over every other consideration.

3. That proper means should be used to secure continued self-improvement on the part of teachers, including especially commendation and promotion for advancement, and degradation or reward for delinquency.

The committee have considered the topics suggested by the President, and recommend that the following be assigned to the gentlemen named, in connection therewith, to report to this Association at its next meeting. The committee further report that they have conferred with the gentlemen named, and ascertained their willingness to perform the service, if asked of them.

Dr. J. N. McJilton of Baltimore would lecture next year on "*A System of Free Schools, comprising the Primary, Grammar, and Higher Grades, should be established in each State where such system does not exist.*"

A. S. Kissell of Iowa would lecture on "*The Grading of Town, Village, and County Schools where it is practicable.*"

President Richard Edwards, of the Normal University, Ill., would lecture : "*One or more Normal Schools should be established and maintained at the public expense in each State.*"

Dr. Thomas Hill of Harvard : "*A Professor of the Science of Education should be appointed in each important College and University.*"

J. W. Bulkley of New York : "*Teachers' Associations should be organized and maintained in each State, County, and Town.*"

Prof. J. W. Hoss of Indiana: "*The Teachers of each State should maintain and conduct an Educational Journal.*"

Col. J. G. McMyrn of Wis.: "*All Teachers should Study.*"

Hon. E. P. Weston of Maine: "*Educational Men should be appointed to fill Educational Offices of every description.*"

Hon. Henry Barnard of Conn.: "*Competitive Examinations should precede Appointments to places of Trust.*"

Hon. J. M. Gregory: "*The degree of Religious Instruction desirable and attainable in Public Schools.*"

Noble Bluter of Ky.: "*A Natural Bureau of Education should be established by the Federal Government.*"

J. W. Andrews of Ohio: "*The defects of our system of National Military Education.*" (We trust all these gentlemen will be brief.)

Then followed *five-minutes speeches* from representatives of different States upon a variety of subjects.

Mr. Richards of Washington, who was the first President of the National Association, was called upon to speak. He had not had an opportunity to compare, as he could wish, the schools of Washington with other schools—but he could say they were in a flourishing condition. There were good female schools there, and the number of scholars was more than the usual average in their schools.

Mr. Childs spoke for Missouri. He was not ashamed to speak for it, he said. The State of Missouri was the most loyal State in the Union. Boston might be the hub of the universe, in respect to literature, but St. Louis was the hub of the States in respect to loyalty. The schools of Missouri were as flourishing as they could well be under the present circumstances of the State. In New England the school system was like a cat—there was no going wrong in it. It was not so with Missouri. There was hard work to be done in that State, and up-hill work.

A. J. Burbank of New Hampshire, spoke of the bravery of New Hampshire boys. He had educated many of them, and they had gloried in the wounds that they suffered for the old flag.

Mr. A. S. Kissel, the delegate from Iowa, paid a just tribute to the soldiers from that State. Iowa was a young State, but it was doing all it could do for the education of the people.

Mr. Weston of Maine, could not unfold the educational system of Maine in five minutes, but the State was improving. It had just established two Normal Schools.

Dr. Ford of Minnesota, said that one-eighteenth of the whole State has been donated by the State of Minnesota to free schools. The people are very intelligent, and they demanded schools at once—primary schools,

grammar schools, schools in log houses — anywhere where schools could be got. Thirty thousand dollars worth of sales have already been made — and the people think that education is the best security they can have for the property of the State.

Mr. Goodnow of Kansas, said his State was the youngest in the Union with one exception — but it had securities for success in education. The Legislature had set apart over 300,000 acres of land for public schools — 30,000 acres for a normal school, 40,000 acres for a university, and 90,000 acres for an agricultural college.

Prof. S. S. Greene, the delegate from Rhode Island, said he did n't think — nor did any Rhode Islander think — that the State was so very little. Governor Sprague was n't a small man, though he was called "Little Sprague." He would be bigger when he united Rhode Island with the West, as he hoped to do, and he supposed when that was done every body would think he was bigger than he is.

Senator Trumbull of Illinois, was gratified to see this large assemblage of teachers. The influence they were to exercise upon the next generation was greater than that which any other assemblage could possibly exercise. The hope of the nation depended upon the education of our children. They met here in the West many natives of Eastern States, and when any claim was made for Illinois, these States naturally shared in it. Illinois was a prosperous State, and had already done much for the education of her children, and for the armies of the United States. But that was no more than saying that the sons of the East and Southeast had done all this, for they were all bound together by a common blood and relationship. This wicked rebellion had been caused, after all, by ignorance. It was a cruel and causeless rebellion, which never could have happened if the great mass of the rebels had been educated. The news which had come from Mississippi was that night cheering, and the indications were that it would soon have an end. And this rebellion once over, there would be no possibility of fermenting another. The North was taunted by her enemies that she wanted to subjugate the South. Subjugate them to what? To an obedience to the laws and the Government — to the Constitution and to the laws which they had helped the North to make. The rebels must lay down their arms. We should never cease to war against them until they did lay down their arms. We were fighting for existence, and, whether we fought for a year or a lifetime, we should never lay down *our* arms until we had compelled the rebels to obey the laws.

Mr. Rice of Indiana said he was proud of Indiana. That was all he could say, and he said this because nobody was there to say so much for her.

Mr. Pickard of Wisconsin said there had been a great cry for facts.

Well, it was a fact that a regiment from Wisconsin ran away at Bull Run; that there were teachers there too fat to teach, and others who did n't earn their salt. There were plenty of bad school-houses there; teachers who knew too much to attend an Association like this; and there was a Superintendent of Instruction there who had been told that he was a walking organist; that salaried officers were too fat to do their duty. Now, all these were facts, which nobody could deny. But he defied any State in the Union to show that they had less, in proportion, of these delinquencies than Wisconsin.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Camp of Conn., Mr. J. A. Stearns of Boston, J. W. Bulkley of N. Y., Mr. Brooks of Ill., Prof. Sill of Mich., and Mr. A. J. Rickoff of Ohio; each gave a brief history of educational progress in their respective States.

President Philbrick delivered the closing address of this, the 5th meeting of the National Teachers' Association. He stated that over 1,100 names of members had been enrolled, showing it to be the largest assemblage of the kind yet held, and including representatives from all the loyal States.

Mr. Wells, the president elect, made a few appropriate remarks, thanking the association for the honor they had conferred upon him, and paying a pleasing and merited compliment to his predecessor. He said that the teacher has no higher duty than to train up patriots, those who love their country, who are loyal to its constitution and government, and who are ready to lay down their lives if need be for its preservation, for its defense against the assaults of rebellion and secession, which are only other names for treason. Let us return to our homes deeply impressed with this lesson.

Mr. Greene of Providence, R. I., reported a series of resolutions, thanking the Board of Education, hotel keepers, superintendents of railroads, editors of the daily journals, and others, for numerous favors.

The meeting adjourned *sine die*.

THE TRIP WEST FROM CHICAGO.

Want of space, in this number of the Teacher, compels us to throw aside an extended and detailed account of this portion of our tour, which we had prepared, and present our readers with a brief outline of our visit west of Chicago,—to many of the New England teachers the most pleasant and profitable portion of the whole excursion.

We much regret the necessity that obliges us to omit so much that would be interesting, that relates to the *individual*, *social*, and *educational* interests of the trip. Those who were fortunate enough to participate in it will, however, be able to supply many of the unmentioned incidents, scenes and episodes that can never be known or appreciated by those who failed to penetrate the West beyond Chicago. For ourselves we can say it was,

indeed, *good* to be in this company, and we found everywhere abundant evidences of the pleasure of the party making the journey, and of the satisfaction it was to the good people of the West to meet us as Eastern friends. We desire to express to the citizens of Illinois and Iowa our hearty thanks for the universal courtesy and kindness extended to us by them. We were pleased to notice their respect for the church and the school, evincing in this region of prairie land a high and ennobling civilization. In this connection we desire to acknowledge our great obligations to our excellent friend, the reporter of the Providence, R. I., *Press* — Alvin C. Robbins, Esq., — for a portion of this abridged account of the trip west of Chicago. Many of the New England teachers expressed their desire to see the "Father of Rivers" before their return to the East, which being made known to the managers of the Galena and Chicago Rail Road and Illinois Central, generously arranged a cheap and pleasant excursion to the river.

The company numbering about four hundred, divided themselves into two parties of nearly equal numbers, and availed themselves of this rare opportunity of seeing the great prairies of Illinois, which, clothed as they are at this season of the year with the most luxuriant harvests of corn and wheat, computed by the square mile rather than by the acre, made many of us stare with wonder, and to exclaim with one of old, though we had read much of its greatness from our geographies, and heard more "big" stories of its productiveness, "that the half had never been told us."

The parties left Chicago at 9½ o'clock, A. M., Saturday, August 8th, — one for Fulton by Dixon Air Line and the other for Dubuque, via Elgin, Freeport and Galena. Taking the northern route, we passed at once into the wonderful wheat region of northern Illinois, and judging from the extended list of descriptive adjectives that reached our ears, this section of country was seen for the *first* time by most of the excursionists, and was indeed the "wonder of wonders" to them. The season of harvest afforded us an admirable opportunity to judge something of the productiveness of the prairies of this noble State. All fears of famine seemed banished from our minds while these fields, on every side, were covered with more than an average crop of the material for the staff of life. The party were frequently welcomed by friends, who had been once residents of "Good Old New England," as they delighted to call that portion of the land, which, by the disloyal sympathizers has been threatened with being "left out in the cold." No danger of that!

Of the roads passed over we should have observed that the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad was the first railroad built out from Chicago. It is very straight, and the land for the first twenty-five miles is that of the level prairie; after this more rolling. Every few miles we pass through

pretty villages, some of which have quite a New England look. Particularly Elgin, on the Fox River, forty-two miles from Chicago, standing on high ground, giving it quite a picturesque appearance; has three thousand inhabitants, with an academy, of beautiful structure, prominent to view. An abundance of trees is noticed, as is the case on all these streams of water, together with a good share of fruit trees.

Rockford, ninety-three miles from Chicago, is another beautiful place, with a population of eight thousand inhabitants; has fourteen churches, two large and beautiful school-houses with graded schools, and fourteen hundred pupils in attendance, a female seminary built of brick, five flour mills, with three elevators, with storage capacity for half a million of bushels of grain. It is more extensively engaged in the manufacture of reaping machines than any other town in Illinois. Surrounded by extensive fields of corn, it had many objects of interest.

At Freeport, one hundred and twenty-one miles from Chicago, we change cars for the Illinois Central Railroad, made a stop of an hour and a half, and roamed over the village which has but few attractions. It is a smart place of seven thousand inhabitants, ten churches, two large and commodious school-houses.

A horrid murder had just been perpetrated here, by a man shooting a woman. Both were under the influence of rum.

We are now on that part of the Illinois Central, each alternate section of six miles on either side of which was granted to the company.

At Lena, twelve miles from Freeport, beautiful fields of wheat are seen extending almost as far as the eye can see. At Nora, twelve miles further on, the land becomes quite elevated, yet free from stones. Near Apple River, we pass through a lime-stone ledge, every stone of which seems squared, marked and numbered, and laid in masonry; still further, and flat stones project at a regular distance of some three or four feet; as though to serve the better purpose of holding the seemingly hard earth between them. At Scales Mound, twenty-six miles further, and the highest elevation on the road, we begin to descend, and for several miles the grade is eighty-five feet to the mile; for ten miles we were told the cars would run without steam.

We now come to Galena, one hundred and seventy-one miles from Chicago, noted for its lead mines. High bluffs surround it, and hardly give a chance for the village, or rather streets, for the dwellings are crowded upon the bluffs.

The town is built on the Fevre River, which is, really, an arm of the Mississippi, six miles from its mouth, and presents a strange and picturesque appearance. The streets rise one above another, and communicate with each other by flights of steps, so that the dwellings on the higher

streets seem perched like an eagle's eyrie, — overlooking the other parts of the town and commanding an extensive prospect. The churches, with their graceful spires, and the school-houses, met the eye on the first terrace, while the better private residences adorn each successive height — many of which indicate that lead had been turned into practical wealth in abundance. Galena owes its growth and importance principally to its mines of lead, which are situated in the bluffs in all parts of the surrounding region. Rich deposits of copper are found also in connection with the lead.

In 1852 Galena shipped forty million pounds of lead, valued at a million of dollars. The mines are much less worked than formerly and are less productive, while those near Dubuque are proving very rich. Saving Galena, the country for our remaining distance was through a most wild, and, what is there termed, "bluffy" region, but what we should call in New England "*mountainous*." These "*bluffs*" extend back from the Mississippi River some ten or twenty miles, and their appearance is sublime and beautiful. We reached Dunleith, on the eastern bank of the river, just as the shades of night shut out the views of nature from us. A few of the party remained for the night at Dunleith, to be in readiness to take the steamer to go up the river on the following morning, while the remainder passed from the cars to the steam ferry-boat to cross into Iowa. While waiting for the baggage to be transferred to the boat, it was our privilege to witness a scene of grandeur not soon to be forgotten by the wearied party, that stood for an hour on the upper deck of that steamboat. Dark heavy clouds had been observed in the sky at sunset, and as evening came on they became black and threatening — soon the lightning began to flash, and grew more and more frequent until the entire vault of the sky seemed lit up by one continuous grand display of pyrotechnics — enabling us to examine the river and its banks for miles. The heavy thunder accompanying, and the *silence* of the usually cheerful and merry party, made the occasion one of great solemnity. Guided by the flashes of electric light, we made our way to the hotels of Dubuque before the rain fell. Here a certain portion of the company made themselves *slightly* merry over the advantages to be gained by a *judicious* use of the *telegraph*, in securing good rooms and prompt attention at one of the hotels. The energetic efforts of J. Russ, Esq., — proprietor of the Julien and Key City houses — however, soon put all into a condition of comfort and good humor for a good supper and a night's repose — preparatory to the keeping of the Sabbath in the far West, after the custom of the "Puritan Fathers."

DUBUQUE.

Dubuque is directly opposite Dunleith, on the Mississippi, and one of the most picturesque cities in the West, and was full of beauty and interest

to us all. Surrounded by a parapet of high hills or "bluffs," as they are here called, in a crescent form, varying from one hundred to two hundred and fifty feet in height, it reminded us of European scenery, read of but never seen. A level tract of land, and only about thirty feet above the bed of the river, and extending not more than half a mile from the base of these bluffs, and for two and a half to three miles in length, forms the site of the city. It is built of brick, and now contains about 12,000 inhabitants, a decrease of about 3000 since the pressure of 1857. It has ten meeting-houses, two large and commodious brick school-houses, four hotels, three printing offices, two daily papers, and a very fine custom house, nearly completed, built from stone imported from Nauvoo, Ill. Also the Dubuque Female Seminary, a very beautiful structure, established by Mrs. Beecher, and Ex-Governor Slade of Vermont, now, however, under the control of the Episcopalians. The town derives its name from Julian Dubuque, who lived and died here among the Indians in 1810, and of whose history little is known more than the inscription upon his tomb-stone, viz.: "A miner, from the mines of Spain." To obtain the best view of the city, one should visit "Kelly's Bluff," directly back of the city, about two hundred and fifty feet high, from which the Mississippi is seen for sixteen miles, and the surrounding country for many times that distance, and which gives to the eye a perfect panorama. As you look into Illinois, at a distance is seen "Sinsinaway Mound," on which with a glass you behold the college by the same name.

"Kelly's Bluff" is interesting in another point of view, as much mineral deposit (lead) is taken therefrom; which, we may here remark, crops out all about these bluffs. The manner of obtaining it is to drive a shaft, or well, down into the earth some fifty or sixty feet, as the case may be, until they generally come to a ledge, which is penetrated through, and, if lucky, the miner strikes a lode or vein, always running east and west, and which varies in width from two to thirty and sometimes forty feet, in which lays the mineral in soft earth, which is taken from the smallest particles to pieces weighing three tons. We were shown a piece weighing six hundred pounds. The mineral thus taken has eighty per cent. of lead, and is worth \$40 per thousand pounds.

We found Mr. Kelly, who is a very eccentric man, of some sixty years of age, made so by a singular circumstance, of which we forbear giving publicity, working his mines barely enough to obtain a subsistence, and who lives entirely alone. He has two houses, one of which he occupies in the winter, partly excavated from the bluff, and the other forms his summer residence. He seems well informed, but lives in almost perfect seclusion, being seldom seen in the streets. He will not sell his bluff, though the high price of \$50,000 was offered him a few years ago.

Upon these bluffs are noticed mounds, of perhaps thirty or forty feet in diameter, and sufficiently elevated to be noticed from the original mound, which have the appearance of having been artificially formed, and are supposed to have been the work of Indians as burial places. They are distinctly noticeable from the Illinois side of the river.

Another peculiarity of these bluffs is the several ravines which form a pretty easy carriage way to the surrounding country, for which the city is the great rendezvous of all grain, etc., and without which the city would be hardly accessible by land. Many beautiful private residences are scattered about the bluff, which with their verandas, or terraced gardens of flowers and shrubbery, give to the eye of a stranger increased pleasure.

The business of the city is mostly trade—and that wholesale in almost every branch; and it has a large country trade, generally very brisk, though at this season of harvesting, quite dull.

We were all very agreeably surprised with the neat structure of the buildings, the churches in particular, and the general appearance of the streets and brick side-walks, in pleasing contrast with the plank and irregular walks of Chicago.

Again, in dress, refinement, politeness and cordial friendship of the citizens, though so far from Boston, the "hub of the Union," they are not one whit behind them.

THE SABBATH.

As they are wont to do at home, most of the teachers attended church a part of the day. In the evening an impromptu "Union Sunday School Meeting" was held to listen to brief addresses from the Eastern teachers, many of whom are deeply interested in the work of Sunday School instruction at home.

Although no public notice was given of the meeting, except at the Sunday School in the afternoon, yet long before the exercises commenced, the large Congregational Church was filled to overflowing. All the Sabbath Schools in the city were represented. Rev. E. S. Norris, President of the Dubuque Sunday School Union, presided. After singing and prayer, Rev. Mr. Brindle welcomed the visitors in a neat and appropriate speech. He said that their entrance in the city was as much a surprise to the people of Dubuque as the sudden raid of Morgan was to the people of Indiana; and if they would only stay long enough to take a look at the productive prairies and other vast resources of Iowa, they would be captivated with the beauty and fertility of the State. There are schools here, he said, hardly second to the public schools of any city in New England. He concluded by remarking that the cause in which they are engaged, is one of the noblest on

earth, and he welcomed them as philanthropists and patriots to the city of Dubuque.

Prof. S. S. Greene of Brown University, R. I., Samuel W. Mason, Esq., of Boston; A. J. Phipps, Esq., Superintendent of Public Schools, New Bedford, Mass.; T. D. Adams of Newton, Mass.; and several others made interesting and eloquent addresses. The friends of the Sabbath School in Dubuque, seemed highly pleased with the meeting. May their noble labors in this field, so full of hope and promise, be blessed with good fruit "an hundred fold!"

A FREE RIDE AND PICNIC ONE HUNDRED MILES BEYOND THE MISSISSIPPI.

Responsive to an invitation received from George Young, Esq., Superintendent of the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad, a party numbering nearly two hundred and fifty, including a few of the citizens of Dubuque,—together with Vice President Smith of the road, and the Superintendent, who planned and managed the trip—extended the tour to Cedar Falls, a point one hundred miles west of Dubuque.

Buoyant with hope, we left at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock A. M., intent upon sight-seeing and enjoying all of western scenery that could be crowded into one day, and in this none were disappointed. When fourteen miles out the obliging officer of the road allowed the passengers to leave the cars and refresh themselves by a cooling beverage from a celebrated spring, by the euphonous name of Cat-fish, the head of Cat-fish River. Here the noted "*tin cup*" association christened anew their "Canada ware." This is some four hundred feet higher than Dubuque, and during this distance was emphatically the "bluffy" country; the grade being about forty-five feet to the mile, and ascending until twenty-two miles from Dubuque, where the elevation is five hundred and thirty-one feet. For the remaining distance we had the prairie, which though undulating is not sufficient to require grading, and it seemed somewhat queer to look for ten miles ahead and behold the elevation we would have to reach, and then the descent thus following the natural inclination of the land. The cost of the structure for the first twenty-five and ten miles following, was about \$30,000 and \$15,000 per mile, the remaining distance built at a cost of from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per mile.

Still further on another stop was made, when several of the party with guns in hand, set out for "prairie chickens," but we forbear to mention the quantity of game taken, lest we spoil the story. On, on, we rush with lightning rapidity, admiring the elevated slopes with frequent "oak openings" found only on streams of water, and which remind us of New England homes, without its rock-ribbed soil, wondering at the square miles of corn and wheat, and the unbounded wild prairie, in pleasing contrast with that cultivated, passed over in Illinois a few days previous. Herds of cattle,

horses, and flocks of sheep, the remote log cabin, with the occasional neat brick dwelling and white cottage, together with the well provided school-house, that crops out here and there on the plain, the delicate wild flowers, which are an occasion of no small regret to our ladies, to think they cannot pluck, compensated in part, however, by the ride upon the "iron horse," with joke and chat, and patriotic song, make the hours glide quickly away, and at 1 o'clock, P. M., we find ourselves at our place of destination, one hundred miles away from our temporary home. A stop of two hours is announced, when the party wind their way to the village, and the quiet possession of the public grove, joined by many of the citizens, when the contents of the well-filled baskets provided under the commissary eye of Messrs. Sheldon, Mason and Stone were displayed, consisting of every viand that the palate might desire, spread in truly Eastern picnic style, were soon dispatched. The cloth removed, Prof. S. S. Greene was called to the chair. In a brief speech he stated the reason why they had appeared thus uncereemoniously upon the good people of Cedar Falls.

Rev. Mr. Waterbury, a native of New York, responded in an eloquent speech of welcome, in which he regretted that the citizens could not have known of their intended visit, that they might have been prepared to have given them a truly Western welcome, but extended an invitation for a visit five years hence, when they would be ready to extend our excursion to the Pacific.

Messrs. Sheldon of Massachusetts, and Bulkley of New York, followed in patriotic and Union speeches, when Col. Sessions, in a speech of thanks in behalf of the citizens, proposed three cheers for the Eastern guests, which was given in truly Western style and responded to by the teachers.

Messrs. Sheldon, Mason, and Stone were chosen a committee on resolutions, to report on the return to Dubuque of the party; when we returned to the cars, and in a few hours were safely landed at our temporary home.

Before leaving the railroad station, Prof. Greene called the excursionists together, when Wm. E. Sheldon, in behalf of the committee, submitted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, George Young, Superintendent of the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad, has most generously tendered to the excursionists of the "National Teachers' Association" a free ride from Dubuque to Cedar Falls and return, therefore

Resolved, That we, the recipients of this disinterested and noble recognition of the good work in which we are engaged, do hereby tender to him and the management of this road our sincere and hearty thanks.

Resolved, That this railroad, under its present able Superintendent, extending as it does through one of the most fertile portions of the world, is entitled to the patronage of the travelling and commercial public.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and it was voted that they be published in the Dubuque papers and *Chicago Tribune*,

Mr. Sheldon, in a brief speech to Mr. Young, desired to say that the party, in appreciation of his kindness, desirous of presenting him some substantial memorial, had contributed enough to purchase an ice pitcher, salver, and goblets, which, when purchased and suitably inscribed, would be presented to him. Three cheers were then given for Mr. Smith, the citizens of Dubuque, and the Union, when the meeting dissolved, and the excursionists found their way to the hotels.

On reaching Chicago, the Chairman of the Committee purchased and caused to be duly inscribed, what was pronounced a "beautiful" ice pitcher, salver, and three goblets, by the ladies of the party, in whose judgment he had great confidence, and forwarded them to Mr. Young, who will always be gratefully remembered by the party who accepted of his unprecedentedly generous offer for a free ride of two hundred miles, and for his care and kindness to the members of the company.

The land along the above-mentioned railroad is but partially cultivated, leaving square miles of wild prairie, mostly owned by individuals residing East, and held at from \$5 to \$10 per acre; and affords as desirable, if not the most desirable farming facilities yet seen at the West; good wheat and corn country, well watered, plenty of wood, which can be obtained at \$2, \$2.50 and \$3 per cord, ash and black oak.

There are several smart towns, viz: Manchester, 48 miles, Waterloo, 86 miles, and Cedar Falls, 100 miles from Dubuque on the Mississippi. The latter is the terminus of this railroad, on Cedar Falls river, and has the best water privilege of any river in this section of the West; which is fast being improved by the erection of two good-sized mills for the manufacture of woollens, and there are already two or three flour and saw mills. It is the great grain and wool mart for seventy-five miles west, and one hundred and fifty miles north. Its shipments for the year ending with December last, amounting to 364,363 bushels of wheat; 86,334 bbls. of flour; 32,752 lbs. wool; 13,930 head of hogs, and \$20,000 paid out for furs — \$11,000 by one firm. It has a population of 2500 inhabitants, four meeting-houses, one printing office, issuing a weekly newspaper.

A school house is in process of construction, at a cost of \$6000.

We here met with Maj. Wm. Willard, a veteran of nearly seventy summers, and for fourteen years a resident of Fort Dodge. He seemed hale and hearty, and would have gladly had us accompany him to this extreme western wild could he possibly have provided conveyance for so large a crowd. We parted with him with many good wishes.

UNION MEETING.

On our return from Cedar Falls, we found that a "*Union Meeting*" had been advertised to be addressed by the prominent Eastern Teachers,

and although it was nearly half past nine o'clock, and the rain pouring, still we cut short our supper and accompanied one of the orators to the Congregational Church, which we found filled to completion with a most intelligent audience, who were being entertained with patriotic songs by a choir of excellent singers until the *distinguished* but *rather weary* speakers should arrive. After a ride of two hundred miles, a prairie chicken chase, a pic-nic, and a Union Meeting at Cedar Falls, all no doubt felt the need of rest and sleep; but Eastern loyalty was shown to be of a stamp which knew no sleep while there was an opportunity to utter a good word for the cause of the country, in the ears of the willing listeners of Iowa.

The speech of S. W. Mason, Esq., of Boston, was universally commended by all and received much applause from the western friends. Col. Tucker of New Hampshire made an eloquent and spirited address. At the time we left, J. A. Stearns, Esq., of Boston, was advocating the cause of *Union* in his usual felicitous style. We learn that the meeting continued until near midnight and was enthusiastic to the close. Addresses were made by several gentlemen whose names we do not now recall.

DOWN THE RIVER BY STEAMER.

About one half of the company left Dubuque, on the steamer "James Means," for Fulton, on Tuesday morning, at 7½ o'clock, and enjoyed a most delightful trip down the river—arriving in season to visit all places of interest in Fulton and Lyons—on the opposite bank of the river,—before the evening train left for Chicago. At this point we barely escaped being thrown overboard by the *staunch Union* captain of the "*Means*," for asking a news-boy to purchase for us the *Dubuque Herald*,—a paper of semi-secession proclivities,—which we wished to see for the sake of knowing what they thought of the Yankee teachers. At Fulton the Western Union College is located, and, being to some extent a *military* institution, is in a flourishing condition. We also found one of the finest public school-houses in the West at this place. Omitting all of the personal and party incidents—of which the number is not few or uninteresting—we leave this portion of the party on the cars for a night ride to Chicago, homeward bound. How few really appreciate a night in the cars? It depends somewhat upon your company.

A VISIT TO THE LEAD MINES.

Those remaining at Dubuque for another day, about seventy-five in all, took omnibuses and private carriages and made their way over the "bluffs" and through the ravines, thus giving the party an excellent opportunity of viewing the country, which, though elevated and uneven, yet presented beautiful farms and very desirable locations, in search of the lead mines.

The first object of interest we stopped at was a shot tower, which was carefully looked over. The next was a smelting furnace—the ore in its natural state, its washing and bringing into bars excited much interest. But a few miles further on and one of the chief objects sought was at hand. This was a new “shaft,” (St. John’s mine, sunk to the depth of one hundred and twenty feet,) which afforded an opportunity for the ladies to try their nerves, and the gentlemen for specimen seeking. Most were eager for the descent, which was by means of windlass and rope, with buckets, or barrels sawed in halves, attached. The ladies, after divesting themselves of the most expensive part of their wearing apparel, were carefully placed into these buckets, each attended by a gentleman for her better security, with hands firmly grasping the rope, and told to maintain their positions with steadiness, which we think was strictly observed; for though the passage was dark, like that told of the dark passage on a certain railroad, yet in no case, as there, was it noticed that the “flesh-colored patch” had been transferred from the lips of either party upon coming again to light.

Once at the bottom, several of the gentlemen, with light and hammer in hand, were quickly in pursuit of specimens; and though attended with much toil and exertion upon all fours, yet many valuable and rare specimens were obtained. This amusement over, “Millett’s Mines” were next visited, though not until all had appeased a sharp appetite with the full share of rations provided, and taken after the primitive style, upon the green grass. We enter this mine with ease, by walking immediately in, with lighted candle in hand, for about two hundred feet, after which the remaining distance of two hundred and fifty feet is more difficult, but richly repaid all the trouble we were to, though possessing no remarkable objects of interest more than showing the deposits of lead, many fine specimens of which were brought away. It was with much difficulty we gained admission, owing to this carrying away process, (though we offered to compensate for it,) which had been carried on by visitors, and which had compelled the proprietor to “close his door” to further visitation. This mine had not been extensively worked, and its resources has not been particularly computed. But we returned home feeling that the mineral resources around Dubuque were only second to those of Galena.

It was decided on the return that one of the Boston, lady teachers was the heroine of the day, having made the descent into an abandoned “shaft” to the depth of nearly two hundred feet.

Supper disposed of, again many of the party were on the move, who by invitation visited the private mineral cabinets of Messrs. Gilbert and Stebbins, consisting of the finest specimens of stalactics, gathered in the vicinity, ever seen; one was eight feet in length, and as pure as the whitest marble; also geodes, consisting of agate, chalcedony and various zeolites, of

the most superior kind, all taken from the Mississippi river, some two hundred miles below.

A visit to the gymnasium closed the day. This was conducted after Dr. Lewis's plan. This assumed quite a social character, as there were gathered in one of the largest halls both sexes, and all ages, and a more social company we have not met with in our travels, unless we except our own, which an acquaintance of nearly two weeks, living on steamboats, railroad cars, and hotels, had made much of a *family* character.

We heard some murmurings of complaint by the good people of Dubuque for not letting them know of our intended visit, that they might have provided from their own private hospitality for our better comfort and happiness; but the party left for Fulton, and from thence by rail to Chicago, on the following morning, to join the advance party, feeling that the citizens of Dubuque had done most nobly for their comfort and entertainment.

• FAREWELL TO CHICAGO.

On Thursday morning, August 13th, the parties that had been to the Mississippi, reached Chicago in safety, and were met by many who had been to visit friends, and make tours of inspection in other sections of the West. The favorite steamer B. F. Wade, Captain Goldsmith, was to leave for Port Sarnia at seven o'clock, P. M., and the day was spent in bidding our many generous friends in Chicago "good bye." Long will the teachers and citizens of this metropolis of the West be kindly remembered by more than five hundred Educators of the East.

A small party took a tour up the Lake, through Wisconsin, by cars to Milwaukee, stopping at Kenosha, Racine, and other points of interest. The portion of the company that went up the Mississippi to Prairie du Chien, and from thence to Madison, through Wisconsin, joined us at Milwaukee, and went on board the steamer on its arrival from Chicago.

The trip through the Lakes was, like the outward voyage, very delightful. We reached the west side of Manitou Island, early Saturday morning, and took on board forty-six cords of wood, which detained us for two hours. We visited the house of the principal resident, and partook of a hearty breakfast of bread and milk, which prepared us for a ramble about the Island. A few of us visited the small log school-house, and one of the company left a letter of greeting for the teacher, who was absent on a visit to the settlement on the eastern side of the island, expressing to her the interest the teachers of New England felt in her labors of self-denial and love, in behalf of the poor children under her instruction.

Captain Goldsmith generously consented to turn out of the usual course of the voyage, and visit the eastern side of the Manitou Island, to enable

a Committee on board the vessel to perform a pleasant duty, which the following account of an incident of the Excursion, furnished by the Secretary of the party, will fully explain. *

AN INCIDENT.

During the excursion of the Eastern Teachers, to the recent "Teachers' National Convention," at Chicago, on their passage through the "Great Lakes," an incident occurred, participated in by the party on board the steamer "Antelope," on its outward trip, which will long be remembered, as illustrating the exalted sphere of the true Teacher.

While sailing on the beautiful Lake Michigan, stopping at the island of Manitou, for wood, the obliging captain, ever ready to add to our enjoyment, informed us there were an abundance of raspberries; all were at once on the move with every conceivable dish to gather the delicious fruit. But the berry ramble was soon absorbed in the more important* incident which I will here relate.

In a large opening, and without the luxury of a single tree, shrub, or flower, except the long wild grass, stood, as it were upon skids, an apology for a building, which, to the cultivated eye, had the appearance of those rude "shanties" seen on many of our Eastern railroads, while in process of structure, or affording temporary shelter for the beasts of the field.

Built, or rather thrown together as it were, of the cheapest material, of hardly capacity for a dozen persons, an aperture on two sides of perhaps a foot and a half square, serving the double capacity for light and ventilation, with one of larger dimensions at one end for admittance, though requiring humble obeisance of the adult guest, forms what was called a school-house. In this were assembled *seventeen* human beings, varying in age to perhaps the same number in years; seated upon boards that had become smooth by use, humbly and yet neatly attired, and in their midst a mild, modest, unpretending, yet dignified and courteous female, intent upon nothing but imparting the seeds of learning to as ready minds desirous of receiving the same.

This true Educator, being on a visit to the island, had collected a few children, representing several different nations, and commenced her missionary labors among them four years ago, and has thus been engaged since, though not constantly; for it should be borne in mind, that the remote settlement of the islanders favors a school only in the summer season. For the first two years she received no compensation, and but a mere nominal one since.

In view of these facts, such an impression was made upon the minds of

all, that, when on board the steamer again, the party were called together and organized, by choosing J. W. Bulkley, Esq., Superintendent of the Public Schools of Brooklyn, N. Y., Chairman, and Alvin C. Robbins of Providence, R. I., Secretary.

Mr. Bulkley in a brief yet enthusiastic speech, stated the object of the gathering, when at the suggestion of several of the teachers, not from poverty or want, but from a desire to honor, in her self-denying labor, the unanimous feeling was that a committee be raised to collect a sufficient sum of money, to purchase and present her a good American watch. The committee appointed for that purpose soon reported the sum collected to be \$53.15 which was subsequently raised to \$65.00. A committee of purchase and presentation was then appointed, consisting of Messrs. J. W. Bulkley of Brooklyn, N. Y., A. J. Phipps of New Bedford, Mass., E. F. Strong of Bridgeport, Ct.; Mrs. T. D. Adams of Newton, Mass. and Miss., R. Howard of Boston, Mass. Said committee were also authorized to receive and publish any and all correspondence that may grow out of said presentation, and present the same to the several State Educational Journals for publication.

A beautiful American lady's gold watch was purchased, appropriately engraved, and, on the return trip of the party, presented in a very neat and appropriate address by A. J. Phipps, Esq., of New Bedford, Mass., Mr. Bulkley not being able to accompany the party. It was quite a surprise; and was accepted in a brief speech, with the same modest and courteous demeanor that marked her character and won the respect of all as at the first visit to her.

Ye young ladies and gentlemen who are just entering upon the great work of teaching, and after the toil of days and perhaps weeks, in our beautiful New England school-houses, repining upon your calling as one conducive of no good to the immortal mind placed under your charge, take courage by calling to mind this little incident, on the isolated island of Manitou, and remember your co-laborer, Angelica M. Buss.

The Sabbath was appropriately recognized on board the steamer, and an excellent sermon was delivered by Rev. P. T. Allen of New Bedford, Mass. Late Sunday evening the steamer reached her wharf at Port Sarnia, but the party remained on board until morning.

We hear favorable reports of all the officers of the steamers of this favorite line through the Great Lakes; but we feel certain that no captain received, or is entitled to more credit and respect, than Capt. Goldsmith of the B. F. Wade. His kindness and courtesy will be forever inseparable with the most successful excursion ever participated in by so many teachers, for so long a distance.

VISIT TO TORONTO.

Leaving Port Sarnia at 9 o'clock, A. M., Monday, August 17th, nothing of interest occurred, except an occasional spirited debate between an Eastern School-master, and an English sympathizer with the Southern Rebellion, which furnished variety to an otherwise monotonous ride. A majority of the company continued directly on toward home, while a minority — numbering about sixty — tarried at Toronto, and spent a day visiting the places of interest in this city of schools, colleges, and cathedrals. We much regret that our limited space forbids our giving an account of the pleasant and profitable visit to the Normal and Model Schools. Dr. Ryerson, Superintendent of Public Schools of Upper Canada, and his able Deputy, Mr. Hodgkins, extended to the party an exceedingly cordial reception; so also did Head Master Robertson of the Normal School, whose philosophical method of conducting a class in history, made a most favorable impression upon us; but we must not stop to explain his style of teaching, which we trust some one of the party will do in a future number of the *Teacher*. The Principals of both male and female departments of the Model Schools, gave illustrations of their methods of instruction, much to the pleasure of the company.

The University, Osgood Hall, Trinity College, the Cathedrals, and many other interesting places were visited by the teachers, and all left on the following morning, feeling that there was much that Americans might learn from a careful study of the educational institutions of Canada.

Taking the steamer Zimmerman for Niagara Falls, we reached the International House early enough to enjoy a twilight view of the wonderful cataract. On the following day we took carriages and visited all of the principal points of interest, which was all our limited stay would justify our undertaking. No pen can describe the emotions of those, who, for the first time, beheld this impressively grand display of the great Creator.

We were glad, at this place, to meet and welcome into our party the distinguished Principal of Phillips Academy, at Andover, Samuel Taylor, LL. D., whom we should willingly have had made President of Dartmouth College. Many events and incidents occurred which would give interest to this portion of the narrative of the *grand trip*. We have only room to mention that the humble, though *loyal teacher* who was taken for the traitorous Vallandigham, on the Canada side of the Falls, — from a fancied resemblance to that notorious individual — received the sympathy of all his friends. May he be forgiven for such a resemblance!

The next morning found us again on the "Zimmerman," bound for Toronto.

Little did we think, as we glided safely over Lake Ontario in the staunch steamer that she was on her last trip! Yet such was the fact; for she was

burnt at her wharf at Lewiston on the return trip from Toronto, on the next day, and we regret to learn that the first mate and one other man perished in her.

A night ride from Toronto brought us to Ogdensburg, and we bade adieu to the Queen's dominions, and rapidly made our way through northern New York to Vermont, and the noble mountain scenery of New England seemed to us more beautiful than ever before.

Leaving a small party at Waterbury, Vt., en route for Mount Mansfield, we passed on safely until we reached Braintree, where, owing to the carelessness of a switch tender, the train was turned upon a side track, and run into a car loaded with bark, badly damaging three cars and giving us all a sudden shock; fortunately no one was much injured. After a delay of two or three hours, during which we sought for food under difficulties, our train was attached to a freight train, and we reached Boston late at night, safe and well.

Thus terminates our meagre account of an excursion, participated in by hundreds of teachers — extending between three and four thousand miles — without any serious accident, or the fatal sickness of a single individual. What occasion for gratitude to *Him* who kept us as in the hollow of his hand.

Fellow travellers! we have something to remember with pleasure in this trip.

W. E. S.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

CONCORD, N. H., Aug. 25, 1863.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION commenced its Thirty-fourth Annual Session at the South Congregational Church in the city of Concord, at 2½ o'clock, P. M.

A. P. Stone, Esq., President of the Association, in the chair.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Cummings of Concord.

Henry E. Sawyer, Esq., of Concord High School, in behalf of the Board of Education and the citizens of Concord, welcomed the members of the Institute to the hospitalities of the city. Mr. Sawyer in closing introduced to the audience His Excellency, Gov. Gilmore, who, in a few appropriate remarks, most cordially and heartily welcomed the Institute to the capital of the Granite State, expressing his deep, abiding interest in the cause of popular education.

The President appropriately responded to the remarks of Mr. Sawyer and Gov. Gilmore, thanking them, and through them, the citizens of Concord, for their most cordial and generous welcome.

The President then read his annual address.

On motion of W. E. Sheldon of Newton, Mass., the reading of the records of the last annual meeting were dispensed with, and the records approved.

The President was authorized, on motion of Chas. Northend of New Britain, Conn., to appoint the following committees, viz.: a committee on nominations; a committee on teachers and teachers' places; a committee on the enrolment of persons attending the meetings of the Institute.

According to assignment, the topic "*What kind of Instruction is best adapted to Prepare our Pupils to Appreciate and Discharge their Duties as Citizens and Patriots*" was discussed by Messrs. T. D. Adams of Newton, Mass., Alfred Greenleaf of Brooklyn, N. Y., W. E. Sheldon of Newton, Mass., David Crosby of Nashua, N. H., Nathan Hedges of Newark, N. J., Albert Palmer of Boston, Mass., James T. Allen of Newton, Mass., and Dr. Calvin Cutter, Surgeon of 9th Army Corps, U. S. Volunteers.

J. W. Webster of Concord, in behalf of Gov. Gilmore, extended an invitation to the members of the Institute to visit the State Reform School at Manchester, for which purpose the Governor would furnish a free ride to Manchester.

On motion of Prof. S. S. Greene, the invitation so generously extended by Gov. Gilmore was accepted.

On motion of S. W. Mason, the Institute adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Institute met according to adjournment, the President in the chair.

The President announced the following committees, viz.: Messrs. Sheldon, Sawyer, Philbrick, Greene, Hedges, Allen, and Camp, committee on nominations.

Messrs. Northend, Northrop, Houghton, Valentine, and Morrill, committee on teachers and teachers' places.

Messrs. Bartlett, Claflin, Crosby, Strong, and Clark, committee on the enrollment of persons in attendance.

The President announced that the members of the Institute would leave Concord for a free ride to Manchester, to visit the State Reform School and the grave of Stark, in accordance with the invitation of Gov. Gilmore, at 7½ o'clock, A. M., Aug. 26.

On motion of Mr. Northend, it was voted that when the meeting adjourned it be to meet directly after the arrival of the excursion train from Manchester.

The Institute were favored with music, sung by a quartette, under the direction of Prof. B. B. Davis of Concord.

A very able and intensely interesting lecture was then delivered by Rev. Henry E. Parker, Pastor of the South Congregational Church, Concord.

Prof. Davis and friends entertained the Institute with another song, after which the Institute adjourned to Wednesday morning, at 9½ o'clock.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The Institute assembled at the Vestry of the South Congregational Church, and was called to order by the President at 9½ o'clock, A. M.

The Institute joined in singing "America," after which prayer was offered by the Hon. J. M. Gregory of Michigan.

The records of the meetings, Aug. 25, were read and approved.

The topic, "*Would the general introduction of Object Teaching into our Schools be Beneficial,*" was discussed by Messrs. Caulkins of N. Y. and Brooks of Penn.

At 11 o'clock, the meeting, having adjourned to the Church, Prof. Mark Bailey, Instructor of Elocution in Yale College, gave a very instructive lecture on Elocution.

On motion of Nathan Hedges, the Institute adjourned to meet at 2½, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Institute met according to adjournment, at 2½ o'clock. President in the chair.

W. E. Sheldon announced an excursion to Lake Winnepiseogee.

The President also announced that the members of the Institute, through the kindness of Gen. Hinks, could visit the Military Camp, and witness a dress parade.

A lecture was then delivered by the Hon. J. M. Gregory, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Michigan.

After a recess of ten minutes, it was unanimously voted to extend an invitation to J. W. Webster of Concord to exhibit his system of gymnastic or calisthenic exercises, to members of the Institute, by practical illustration.

The topic, "*Best Methods of Teaching Reading*," was, according to assignment, taken up and discussed, the speeches being limited to ten minutes each, by Messrs. Crosby of Nashua, N. H., Thayer of Keene, N. H., Greenleaf of Brooklyn, N. Y., Claflin of Hopkinton, Mass., and Gregory of Michigan.

On motion of Mr. Sawyer of Concord, the subject was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Rockwell, adjourned to meet at 7½, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Institute was called to order at 7½ o'clock, by A. P. Stone, the President.

Mr. Northend, chairman of the committee on teachers and teachers' places, read a list of those desiring situations as teachers.

After singing, by Prof. B. B. Davis and friends, Rev. B. G. Northrop, Agent of Massachusetts Board of Education, gave a very useful and instructive lecture on Local and State Superintendency.

A communication was then read by the President, from Dr. Bancroft, Superintendent of the N. H. State Lunatic Asylum, inviting the members of the Institute to visit that Institution, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

On motion of Mr. Bulkley, it was voted to accept the invitation of Dr. Bancroft, and to tender him the thanks of the Institute for the same.

After singing, by Prof. Davis and friends, C. C. Coffin, (Carleton of the *Boston Journal*), was introduced to the audience, who described most vividly some of the intensest scenes of the present war, of which he was an eye witness.

Another song being sung, on motion of W. D. Ticknor, adjourned to meet next morning at 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The Institute met according to adjournment, and was called to order by the President at 9½ o'clock.

The audience united in singing a hymn, after which the Divine Blessing was invoked by Rev. B. G. Northrop.

Records of last meetings were read and approved.

W. E. Sheldon, chairman of committee on nominations, reported the names of those nominated by the committee for officers of the Institute for the ensuing year.

On motion of Geo. A. Walton, the report of the committee was accepted, and 2½ o'clock, P. M., was assigned as the hour for election.

W. D. Ticknor, Esq., Treasurer of the Institute, made his annual report, showing \$341.34 in the treasury. The report was accepted.

On motion of Alfred Greenleaf, the topic on Object Teaching was taken from the table and discussed by Messrs. Greenleaf of Brooklyn, Philbrick of Boston, Sanborn of Dartmouth College, Northrop of Mass., Camp of Conn., and Stanley of Nashua.

After a recess of five minutes, Rev. Dr. E. B. Foster of Springfield, Mass., delivered an able, interesting, and instructive lecture on the "*Methods of Educating Dull Scholars.*"

Hon. Henry Barnard offered the following resolution.

WHEREAS, the security and honor of the whole country require in the military and naval service the right sort of men with the right sort of knowledge and training; and whereas, the military and naval schools established to impart this knowledge and training will fail in their objects, unless young men are selected as students, of the right age, with suitable preparatory knowledge, with vigor of body, and aptitude of mind, for the special studies of such schools; and whereas, the mode of determining the qualifications and selecting the students may be made to test the thoroughness of the elementary education given in the several States, therefore

Resolved, That the Directors of the American Institute of Instruction are authorized and instructed to memorialize the Congress of the United States, to revise the terms and mode of admission to the National Military and Naval Schools, so as to invite young men of the right spirit, and with vigor and aptitude of mind for mathematical and military studies, who aspire to serve their country in the military and naval service, to compete in open trial before intelligent and impartial examiners in each State, without fear or favor, without reference to the wealth, or poverty, or occupation, or political opinions of their parents or guardians, for such admission, and that in all cases the order of admission shall be according to the personal merits and fitness of the candidate.

The resolution was laid on the table, and Institute adjourned to meet at 2½ o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Institute was called to order by the President, at 3 o'clock.

W. E. Sheldon offered the following amendments to the Constitution, the Board of Directors having previously agreed thereto.

That Article 5, Section 9, be so amended that it shall read as follows: "Stated meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Saturday in January, and on the day of the annual meeting of the Institute, in August."

Also, that Article 4, Section 1, be so amended that it shall read "The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, an Assistant Recording Secretary, two Corresponding Secretaries, a Treasurer, three Curators, three Censors, and twelve Counsellors, who shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Messrs. Strong of Conn., Stanley of N. H., and Walton of Mass., were appointed to distribute, collect, and count the votes for officers of the Institute for the ensuing year.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected:

President — Charles Northend, New Britain, Conn.

Vice-Presidents — Samuel Pettes, Roxbury, Mass.; Barnas Sears, Providence, R. I.; Gideon F. Thayer, Boston, Mass.; Benjamin Greenleaf, Bradford, Mass.; William Russell, Lancaster, Mass.; Henry Barnard, Hartford, Conn.; Alfred Greenleaf, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Samuel S. Greene, Providence, R. I.; Ariel Parish, Springfield, Mass.; Leander Wetherell, Boston, Mass.; George B. Emerson, Boston, Mass.; Nathan Hedges, Newark, N. J.; Zalmon Richards, Washington, D. C.; John W. Bulkley, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Thomas Sherwin, Boston, Mass.; Jacob Batchelder, Salem, Mass.; George Allen, Jr., Boston, Mass.; David N. Camp, New Britain, Conn.; John D. Philbrick, Boston, Mass.; Joshua Bates, Boston, Mass.; Alpheus Crosby, Salem, Mass.; Ebenezer Hervey, New Bedford, Mass.; B. G. Northrop, Framingham, Mass.; George F. Phelps, New Haven, Conn.; Henry E. Sawyer, Concord, N. H.; E. P. Weston, Gorham, Me.; E. F. Strong, Bridgeport, Conn.; D. B. Hagar, Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Daniel Leach, Providence, R. I.; A. P. Stone, Plymouth, Mass.; Edwin D. Sanborn, Hanover, N. H.; B. W. Putnam, Boston, Mass.; John Kneeland, Roxbury, Mass.; Daniel Mansfield, Cambridge, Mass.; T. W. Valentine, Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. E. Littlefield, Bangor, Me.; Joseph White, Williamstown, Mass.; A. S. Briggs, Chicago, Ill.; A. Wood, Meriden, N. H.; J. M. Gregory, Ann Arbor, Mich.; A. J. Phipps, New Bedford, Mass.; Ellis Peterson, Castine, Me.; J. W. Dickinson, Westfield, Mass.; Merrick Lyon, Providence, R. I.

Recording Secretary — Samuel W. Mason, Boston, Mass.

Assistant Recording Secretary — Edward Gay, Boston, Mass.

Corresponding Secretaries — T. D. Adams, Newton, Mass.; Granville B. Putnam, Quincy, Mass.

Treasurer — William D. Ticknor, Boston, Mass.

Curators — Nathan Metcalf, Boston, Mass.; Samuel Swan, Boston, Mass.; J. E. Horr, Brookline, Mass.

Censors — William T. Adams, Boston, Mass.; James A. Page, Boston, Mass.; C. Goodwin Clark, Boston, Mass.

Counsellors — Charles Hutchins, Boston, Mass.; J. W. Allen, Norwich, Conn.; George N. Bigelow, Framingham, Mass.; Moses T. Brown, Toledo, Ohio; Wm. E. Sheldon, West Newton, Mass.; A. G. Boyden, Bridgewater, Mass.; W. A. Mowry, Providence, R. I.; N. A. Calkins, New York City; J. W. Webster, Concord, N. H.; Mark Bailey, New Haven, Conn.; D. W. Jones, Roxbury, Mass.; J. N. Bartlett, New Britain, Conn.

Messrs. Philbrick of Boston and Webster of Concord were appointed to conduct the President elect to the chair.

Rev. James Freeman Clark, D. D., of Boston was introduced as the lecturer of the hour. Subject: "*Natural and Artificial Methods of Education.*"

W. E. Sheldon made the annual report of the Board of Directors, which was accepted and placed on file.

On motion of S. W. Mason, adjourned to meet at 7½, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Institute was called to order by the President at 7½ o'clock.

On motion of Hon. Henry Barnard, the subject of a memorial to Congress, in reference to the Military and Naval Schools of the United States, was taken.

from the table and discussed, by Messrs. Barnard, Coffin, Hedges, Northrop, and Wetherell, and the resolution offered by Mr. Barnard was unanimously adopted.

Prof. Davis and friends favored the Institute by singing.

Short speeches, of five minutes each, on the general subject of education, were made by Messrs. J. W. Bulkley, Superintendent of Schools, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Nathan Hedges of Newark, N. J.; D. N. Camp, Superintendent of Schools of Conn.; Prof. E. D. Sanborn of St. Louis, Mo.; S. A. Briggs of Chicago, Ill.; J. D. Philbrick of Boston, for Indiana; W. A. Mowry of Providence, R. I.; Joseph White, Secretary of Massachusetts Board of Education; Brooks of Penn.; J. E. Littlefield of Bangor, Me.; J. S. Adams, Superintendent of Schools of Vt.; and Jonathan Tenny of N. H.

On motion of Mr. Philbrick, the letters received from prominent educators, in reference to the present meeting of the Institute, were ordered to be published with the proceedings of the Institute.

J. W. Bulkley gave an interesting account of a visit of Eastern teachers to North Manitou Island, Lake Michigan, where Miss Angelica M. Buss, a devoted teacher on the Island, was made the recipient of a splendid gold watch, presented to her by Eastern teachers, on their return from the National Teachers' Association at Chicago.

A. J. Phipps presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved, That our thanks are due, and are hereby tendered to the Local Committee of this city, for the provisions made for our accommodation, and the successful results of their efforts to promote the interests of the Institute during its present session; to the families that have extended their generous hospitality to many of the ladies in attendance upon our meetings; to the proprietors of the Hotels for the liberal reduction of their usual rates of fare; to the following railroad companies, for free return tickets from this city to our homes, viz: Boston & Lowell; Boston & Maine; Eastern; Essex; Nashua & Lowell; Wilton; Stony Brook; Lowell & Lawrence; Salem & Lowell; Concord, Manchester & Lawrence; Portsmouth & Concord; Manchester & North Ware; Northern; Concord & Claremont; Contoocook Valley; Boston, Concord & Montreal; Newburyport; Old Colony & Fall River; Western; Worcester & Nashua; Norwich & Worcester; Providence & Worcester, from all stations below Whitinsville; Vermont Central; Springfield, Hartford & New Haven; Connecticut River; Boston & Providence; and Taunton & New Bedford; to the Boston, Concord & Montreal railroad for reduced fare for an excursion to Lake Winnipiseogee; to the Trustees of the South Congregational Church, for the free use of their Church and Chapel, in which the meeting of the Institute have been held, and to Prof. B. B. Davis and his associates, for the musical exercises, which have contributed so much to the pleasure of our sessions.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to His Excellency, Governor Gilmore, for the interest he has manifested in the Institute, and especially for the free excursion tendered to us, by him, to visit the State Reform School at Manchester; to Dr. Bancroft, for his kind invitation to visit the State Lunatic Asylum, and his personal attentions to the large number who accepted it; to the Trustees of the State Historical Society, for the invitation to visit their Library; to Brigadier-General Hinks, for the invitation to visit the Camp Ground, and witness a dress parade; and to the Warden of the State Prison, and others, for similar invitations kindly extended to us.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the gentlemen who have delivered lectures before the Institute during its session, and that copies of their lectures be respectfully requested for publication.

Resolved, That we regard the wicked and causeless rebellion which has plunged our country into the sorrows and horrors of civil war, with the most profound detestation. That we remember with heartfelt gratitude, and the highest esteem, the

unexampled devotion of our citizen soldiery in their efforts to sustain our government, — the freest, the wisest, and the best upon the earth, — and to preserve for posterity the beneficent institutions bequeathed to us by our forefathers. That we render devout thanks to Almighty God for the signal victories which have been so recently achieved by our brave armies, — and, in the justice of our cause we would express our firm reliance upon Divine Providence for ultimate, and we may hope, speedy and complete success. That we here renew our previous pledges of devotion to the cause of freedom and good government, and repeat our vows as teachers, as patriots, and as Christians, to do all in our power to sustain and preserve our government against all its enemies and opposers whatsoever.

W. E. Sheldon offered the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously :

Resolved, That the sincere and hearty thanks of the members of the Institute be tendered to the retiring President, A. P. Stone, Esq., for his energetic and faithful efforts to promote the highest usefulness of the Association, during the two years of official service.

The Institute then listened to the singing of the Marsellaise, by Prof. Davis and his friends, and closed its sessions by the singing of the Doxology, "Praise God," etc.

After singing the Doxology, and the Benediction being pronounced by Rev. Henry E. Parker of Concord, adjourned, *sine die*.

S. W. MASON, *Rec. Sec.*

INTELLIGENCE.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Horace H. Currier has received the appointment as Principal of the Grammar School in Brighton. The salary is \$850. *Mr. Currier* goes from the High School in Amesbury.

Mr. Geo. S. Houghton, late Master of the Merrimack School at Concord, N. H., has been appointed Master of the Everett School in Dorchester, Mass.

BOOK NOTICES.

LESSONS ON OBJECTS: Graduated Series. Designed for Children between the ages of six and fourteen years; containing, also, information on common objects. Arranged by E. A. SHELDON, Supt. Public Schools, Oswego, N. Y., — author of Elementary Instruction, Reading Book and Charts, etc., etc. New York: Published by Charles Scribner. 1863. pp. 407.

The basis of this treatise is the fourteenth edition of "Lessons on Objects," published in London in 1855, under the auspices of the Home and Colonial Training Institution. This American edition has been essentially improved and modified by Mr. Sheldon, to meet the growing demands of the American schools.

A great variety of model lessons are given, designed to aid the teacher in preparation for the best methods of object teaching. In its arrangement it is progressive

and embraces most valuable hints, and direct information on common things in almost every department of knowledge.

We gladly welcome everything, whether it be a book, chart, map, or oral suggestion, that will aid the Common School teacher to enlighten and cultivate the *senses*, — awaken and quicken the powers of observation.

This book we are confident will improve our methods of object teaching more than any treatise that has appeared. No teacher can, wisely follow the precise form given from the description of objects, by any author. To do so would be equivalent to ignoring that *originality* and *individuality*, which gives freshness and peculiar interest to every topic presented to a class of pupils.

Primary teachers need *more* and *better* preparation for their daily duties than any other class of educators, and such books as those prepared by Mr. Sheldon should be their constant companions.

THE SIXTH READER: Consisting of extracts in Prose and Verse, with Biographical and Critical Notices of the Authors. For the use of advanced classes in Public and Private Schools. By G. S. HILLARD, with an *Introductory Treatise* on elocution, by Prof. MARK BAILEY, of Yale College. Boston: Brewer & Tileston. 1863. pp. 504.

This book of the *new series* corresponds to the First Class Reader of the compiler's former series of readers. Being designed for the more advanced pupils of our schools, an unusually wide range of selections has been made — presenting a great variety of styles of reading. While we discover quite a number of the pieces of the former book, the present volume is essentially new. One feature is especially pleasing to us, and that is a greater number of animated, and declamatory selections than are generally found in our school readers.

Wisely, as we think, the distinguished compiler of this new Series of Readers has called to his aid many practical teachers of good judgment and much experience. No one so well knows the wants of the school as those who have made it a careful study, and applied theory to practice. The selections seem to us to be such as make the book useful for drill in almost all styles of reading.

The introductory treatise on reading and the training of the vocal organs will be looked for with great interest by all teachers, who enjoyed the privilege of listening to the most admirable lecture of Prof. Bailey at the recent meeting of the American Institute of Instruction, at Concord N. H. Teachers will find in this introduction a full and elaborate discussion of the principles which were briefly stated by him at that meeting.

To us it seems the most thorough and comprehensive discussion of the practical principles involved in the successful teaching of reading, that we have ever seen in any text-book adapted for general use. We heartily commend this book to the attention of all teachers and school committees.

The fourth and fifth books of this new series of books have been received by us, and will be noticed in a future number of the *Teacher*.

HELPS TO EDUCATION. By WARREN BURTON. For sale by Otis Clapp, Boston.

We feel that we are doing the friends of education good service by calling attention again to this book — filled with noble Christian sentiments, from the pen of one of the most self-denying and worthy educators of our day. Every copy sold will benefit and bless the purchaser, and aid the author, who is in feeble health, and needs the avails of this book's sale.